

**MINUTES**  
**MICHIGAN STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**June 28, 2007**  
**Lansing, Michigan**

Meeting noticed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Public Act 267 of 1976.

Present:                Ted B. Wahby, Chair  
                             Linda Miller Atkinson, Vice Chair  
                             James S. Scalici, Commissioner  
                             Maureen Miller Brosnan, Commissioner  
                             James R. Rosendall, Commissioner

Also Present:        Kirk T. Steudle, Director  
                             Larry Tibbits, Chief Operations Officer  
                             Frank E. Kelley, Commission Advisor  
                             Marneta Griffin, Commission Executive Assistant  
                             Jerry Jones, Commission Auditor, Office of Commission Audit  
                             Raymond Howd, Attorney General's Office, Transportation Division  
                             John Friend, Bureau Director, Highway Delivery  
                             John Polasek, Bureau Director, Highway Development  
                             Susan Mortel, Bureau Director, Transportation Planning  
                             Myron Frierson, Bureau Director, Finance and Administration  
                             Bill Shreck, Director, Office of Communications  
                             Tim Hoeffner, Administrator, Intermodal Policy  
                             Sharon Edgar, Administrator, Bureau of Passenger Transportation

A list of those people who attended the meeting is attached to the official minutes.

Chair Wahby called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium in Lansing, Michigan.

**I.        COMMISSION BUSINESS**

Commission Minutes

Chair Wahby entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the State Transportation Commission Meeting of May 31, 2007.

Moved by Commissioner Brosnan, with support from Commissioner Scalici, to approve the minutes of the Commission Meeting of May 31, 2007. Motion carried.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion for approval of the minutes from the State Transportation Commission Workshop of May 31, 2007.

Moved by Commissioner Brosnan, with support from Commissioner Scalici, to approve the minutes of the Commission Workshop of May 31, 2007. Motion carried.

## II. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – DIRECTOR KIRK T. STEUDLE**

Director Steudle's presentation focused on:

### **Governor's Performance Plan**

The Governor's Performance Plan (GPP) is sponsored by Pew Trusts and Governing Magazine, and conducted by a team of academic experts, policy analysts and journalists. Grades (Michigan scored a B+) are based on responses to the online survey, publicly available documents, and interviews with state officials. This evaluates how well state governments perform their basic management functions. It gives state government's information and data they can use to improve management and achieve goals. It also gives states a way to distinguish themselves and highlight accomplishments.

The GPP looks at four particular areas—evaluates how well the states manage: **Money** (fiscal resources, including budgeting, forecasting, accounting and financial reporting, procurement, contracting, investments, and debt); **People** (employees, including implementing an effective and efficient hiring, retention, development, and reward system); **Infrastructure** (physical infrastructure, including its roads, bridges, buildings, and other resources supported by capital expenditures), and **Information** (the extent to which elected leaders and managers use information and technology to measure the effectiveness of services, make decisions, and communicate with citizens).

There are three 'vertical' surveys which compare statewide responses to responses from specified Departments: Corrections, Child and Family Protective Services, and Transportation. "Topic surveys" cover the four survey areas (Money, People, Infrastructure, and Information), regardless of which agency is responsible. "Vertical surveys" examine selected departments in one or more of the four topic areas, using the same questions as the topic surveys (like a "spot check" to see how the statewide responses play out in any given Department).

Completed surveys are due July 15<sup>th</sup>. Interviews will be conducted in the following months. The grades will be published in Governing Magazine in February 2008, as well as on the GPP web site <http://www.gpponline.org>.

### **MI Transportation Plan**

The report and all supporting technical reports are available on the web site at [www.michigan.gov/slrp](http://www.michigan.gov/slrp). This entire body of work constitutes *MI Transportation Plan: Moving Michigan Forward*, the State Long-Range Transportation Plan 2005-2030. Compact disks containing all materials will be available soon.

### **Work Zone Safety**

This 1-minute, 20-second video encourages the "45mph where construction workers are present". It only takes a second for a devastating accident to happen. This video was produced by Bob Felt, MDOT Office of Communications, videographed by Bob Wilks, and edited by Matt Ozanich, MDOT Bureau of Finance and Administration.

Director Steudle asked for questions.

Chair Wahby asked, regarding the areas saying “Work Zone”, why signs are put up so early before that particular area actually is a Work Zone.

Director Steudle responded that each zone is different. Some of them have to deal with the contractor’s scheduling. Some could deal with material availability or unavailability. In instances of a bridge deck or concrete patch job the concrete could have just been poured and the engineers are waiting for the concrete to cure—it looks like nothing is happening but the concrete is too soft to drive on.

Chair Wahby added that when the sign says “Where Workers Present” indicates that that means there are workers are physically there but people become non-believers when no one is there but barrels are up.

Director Steudle commented that a very good example is along I-96 where the barrels are on the side of the road—all of this work is being done at night and on weekends. The eastbound direction has all been resurfaced. You may drive through the daytime and not see anybody working, but it’s because they are working at night starting at about 7:30 p.m. The 8 miles of barrels are set up during the day to close down the lanes then set them off onto the shoulder once they’re done at night. Where we can, we pull them off to give the motoring public the most lanes possible.

No other questions were forthcoming.

### III. **OVERSIGHT**

#### **Commission Agreements (Exhibit A) – Myron Frierson**

Mr. Frierson stated that information on 80 agreements has been given for review. He noted that Item 55 (Highways-Real Estate-Acquisition of Railroad Corridor—41.23 miles long) is contingent upon the Attorney General’s review. Pending any questions, Mr. Frierson asked for approval of Exhibit A; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Atkinson and supported by Commissioner Rosendall to approve Exhibit A. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### **Bid Letting Pre-Approvals (Exhibit A-1) – Myron Frierson**

Mr. Frierson gave a brief re-cap of the June 2007 bid letting activities: 21 State projects with total engineers’ estimates of \$176.0 million were let. The low bids announced on these projects totaled \$178.1 million. The Ambassador Bridge/Gateway Project was let in a special letting on June 8 with the low bid of \$168.5 million.

As of October 23, 2006, it was estimated that 407 State projects with construction costs totaling \$905.8 million would be let during the 2007 fiscal year. Through June of this year, 342 State projects with engineers’ estimates of \$879.7 million were let, representing 97.2% of the total amount projected to be let this fiscal year. In comparison, through June 2006, 373 projects with total engineers’ estimates of \$668.6 million were let,

representing 60.4% of the FY 2006 projection. The department's letting schedule is proceeding as planned. Through June 2007, 109.7% of the construction cost estimate of projects scheduled for the first nine months of the year was let. In comparison through June 2006, 97.9% of the construction cost estimate of projects scheduled for the first nine months of the year was let.

The total number of bids submitted for the June lettings was 467, of which 83 were submitted for State projects. There was an average of 5.3 bids submitted for each project that was let, and an average of 4.0 bids for each State project. Of the 446 contractors eligible to submit bids, 163, or 36.5%, submitted bids for these lettings.

Pending any questions, Mr. Frierson asked for approval of Exhibit A-1; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Scalici and supported by Commissioner Brosnan to approve the June bid letting. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### Letting Exceptions Agenda (Exhibit A-2) – John Polasek

Mr. Polasek reported on 2 items; 1 single bid that was under the estimate; 1 Local project that was 18% over the engineers' estimates, which was accompanied by a justification memo. Pending any questions, Mr. Polasek asked for approval of Exhibit A-2; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Brosnan and supported by Commissioner Atkinson to approve Exhibit A-2. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

#### Information Items (Exhibit A-3) – Myron Frierson

Mr. Frierson stated that this item (a single bidder just under 7% of the engineers' estimate) is included for information purposes only. There is no action required.

Chairman Wahby asked for questions; none were forthcoming.

#### Contract Adjustments (Exhibit B) – John Friend

Mr. Friend had 3 MDOT projects before the Commission. Special mention was made of Extra Item 2007-93 (6.67 miles of concrete reconstruction...I-75...in Saginaw County) for a requested amount of about \$4.5 million (this is a procedural change—a net reduction with this project of about \$1.6 million). This is one of the first projects where we've gone in and looked at the concrete roadway to be taken up in order to be sure we did everything environmentally right. We crushed it into a useful aggregate, coated it with an asphalt material and placed it back down as a roadway base. Post letting a contractor came in and proposed a change that provides the same design strength allowable that saves us about \$1.6 million. Pending any questions, Mr. Friend asked for approval of Exhibit B; none were forthcoming.

Commissioner Rosendall commented on his visit with the Grand Region engineers. He was able to see, firsthand, some of the projects which gave him better understanding of the process and the items that come before the Commission.

Chair Wahby entertained a motion. Motion was made by Commissioner Rosendall and supported by Commissioner Atkinson to approve Exhibit B. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chair Wahby asked if any member of the audience wanted to address the Commission; none were forthcoming.

Chair Wahby asked if any Commissioner wanted to address the Commission; none were forthcoming.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wahby entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was made by Commissioner Brosnan and supported by Commissioner Atkinson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chair Wahby declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

The next full meeting of the Michigan State Transportation Commission will be held on July 26, 2007, in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor Bureau of Aeronautics Auditorium in Lansing, Michigan, beginning at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

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Frank E. Kelley  
Commission Advisor